

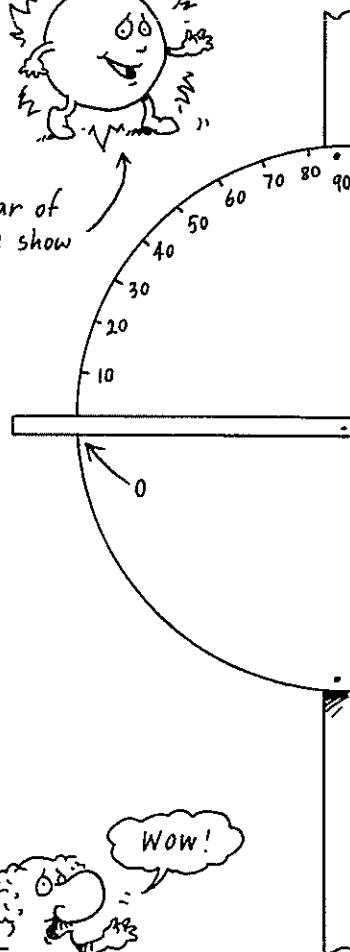
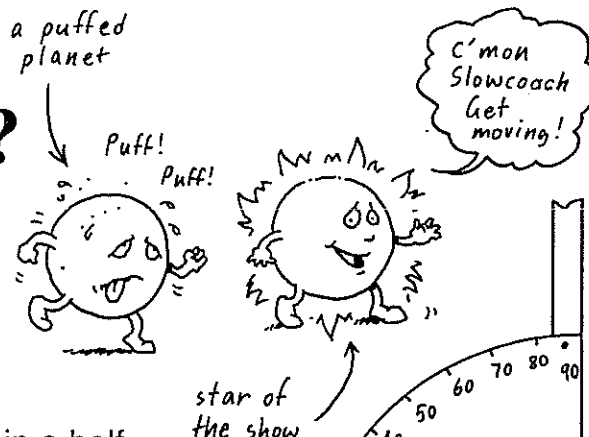
Do Stars and Planets Move in the Same Way?

What you need:

- pole 1.5 m long
- wooden doweling 35 cm long
- piece of stiff cardboard
- 2 drawing pins
- small nail
- hammer
- scissors
- compass
- map of the sky showing stars and planets

What you do:

- 1 Don't get in a tizz!
- 2 Cut the cardboard in a half circle and number around its edge from 0 to 90 as shown.
- 3 Use the drawing pins to fix the cardboard to the long pole.
- 4 Now, nail the piece of doweling at right angles to the pole. It needs to be placed exactly half-way along the cardboard so that it points out across the zero mark. Call it your 'sighting stick'.
- 5 Choose a planet from the map.
- 6 Use your tool to find the angle of the planet from the horizon. Hold the pole upright. Move the sighting stick to aim at the planet. Read the number on the cardboard that is closest to the sighting stick.
- 7 Now find a star near the planet. Find its angle above the horizon.
- 8 Repeat the measurements at the same time every night for five nights.



Million Dollar Questions

- 1 Did the star move?

_____ If so, in which direction?

- 2 Did the planet move?

_____ If so, in which direction?

Science Skill: Geometric calculations